Amendments To The Specification

Please ADD the following new paragraphs just prior to the paragraph [0035] on page 3 of the specification as published (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0108749):

Display criteria filters are sometimes used to limit in some predetermined or selectable fashion the particular candidate programming options that are displayed. For example, a viewer may be offered the option to limit the displayable pool of programming options to only those options that are presently available for viewing. While helpful in some instances to facilitate the content selection process, such an approach does not meet the needs of all viewers under all viewing circumstances. For example, filter control often requires navigation of nested setting choices (which are often presented in a series of nested menus). Navigation of such a configuration to locate a desired setting opportunity can be both cumbersome and non-intuitive. Further, the navigation process itself, coupled with the loss of present on-screen data, can permit some viewers to lose their train of thought and hence stymie rather than facilitate the subjective process of selecting viewing material of interest to the viewer.

In a preferred embodiment the particular filters used can be selected as appropriate to the given needs and specific requirements of a given application. Some filter examples include, but are not limited to, a genre filter (with filter criteria such as "all," "children's programming," "comedy," "drama," "documentary," "favorites list," "service provider's recommendations," "audio only," and the like), a temporal filter (with filter criteria such as "now," "upcoming within the next hour," "tomorrow," "previously recorded," and the like), or a media/source filter (with filter criteria such as "broadcast television," "satellite service 2,""cable service 1," "Internet content," "DVD bank 1," "digital video recorder 3," and the like). Through the use of such filters, an initial pool of candidate viewing choices can be reduced on the basis of the filter selection criteria as is generally well understood in the art. For example, by selecting a filter criterion of "now" for a first filter and a filter criterion of "children's" for a second filter, only presently viewable children's programming would be made available for selection browsing and navigation.

In one embodiment at least two user-selectable characterizing descriptor filters are provided. In some embodiments, such filters have filter criteria that pertain to one or more of the characterizing descriptors for the selectable items of data. To illustrate, such criteria can pertain to content genre, content availability, content rating, content source, cost of content access, language, presentation duration, and the like. While it might be useful in some application to have shared common criteria as between these two or more filters, in a preferred approach these filters will have mutually exclusive filter criteria sets.

In one embodiment, while presently displaying a given selected item of data (such as a particular television program, movie, or other audio/visual work as obtained from some corresponding source), one or more characterizing descriptors as correspond to that selected item of data may be used to provide at least one selection criterion. For example, the characterizing descriptors for a given item of data might specify a broadcast source, a textual plot summary, a listing of the key actors in the work, a genre categorization, and so forth as is otherwise well understood in the art. Pursuant to one approach one or more such preselected characterizing descriptors are noted. For example, the genre categorization and nouns appearing in the plot summary might be identified and accessed to then define or otherwise influence the formation of a corresponding selection criterion (or criteria).

In one embodiment, the selection criterion (or criteria) may then be use as the basis of a filter to employ in conjunction with some predetermined set of candidate programs. Pursuant to one approach this selection criteria can be applied against all potentially available programming options. In a preferred approach, however, this selection criteria will be used in conjunction with some useful subset of all potentially available programming options. In particular, in a preferred approach, the selection criteria will be used to process a subset of programming options that includes only presently available, or soon to be available, programming options. To illustrate, if the presently selected program will conclude at 7:00 PM, then the selection criteria will preferably be applied with respect to only candidate programming options that will begin at or near 7:00 PM. The selection criterion or criteria can be attained in a variety of ways. In one embodiment a generic or standard filter set can be employed. In a more

preferred embodiment criteria of particular import to a given viewer are used. The latter can be obtained, for example, by accessing previously stored information to this effect and/or by requesting a current expression of viewer preferences, depending upon the embodiment employed.